

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as indicated below:

1. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus to correctly align a foot to permit an orthotic device to be fabricated, said apparatus comprising:

 a heel support and a front foot rest positioned substantially level therewith and in front of the heel support to define a heel-toe axis in front of the heel support, said heel support being mounted on a heel adjustment means arranged to simultaneously pivot said heel support about said heel-toe axis and move said heel support in a direction transverse to said heel-toe axis, and

a front foot support located on said front foot rest and able to be both rotated about said heel-toe axis and moved in a direction transverse to said heel-toe axis,

wherein said front foot support comprises a stirrup having an appreciable extent in the direction of said heel-toe axis.

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 1, wherein a foot plate extends between said heel support and said front foot rest and is located within said front foot support.

5. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 1, wherein a deformable liner shaped to support the plantar surface of a patient's foot extends from said heel support through said front foot support.

6. **(Currently Amended)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said heel adjustment means comprises a vertically extending support having a substantially

flat top over which a substantially flat rack extends, a curved rack formed on the said heel support and engaged with said flat rack, and a tilt lever arm extending from said heel support and tiltable to change the point of inter-engagement of said flat and curved racks.

7. **(Previously Presented)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein a turnbuckle interconnects said tilt lever arm and a base of said vertically extending support.

8. **(Previously Presented)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said tilt lever arm extends from the underside of said heel support, has a substantial vertical extent, and is carried in a slot in said flat top, the inter-engagement of said tilt lever arm and slot substantially preventing movement of said heel support in the direction of said heel-toe axis.

9. **(Previously Presented)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said vertically extending support is rotatable about the vertical axis and releasably clampable in relation thereto to permit toe-in or toe-out adjustment of said heel-toe axis.

10. **(Previously Presented)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 6 and having a pair of said heel supports and translation means to adjust the relative distance between said heel supports in a direction substantially transverse to the heel-toe axes.

11. **(Original)** A method of casting a mould of a compensated foot whilst a patient's weight is carried by the foot, said method comprising the steps of:

- a. standing the patient on a pair of spaced apart heel supports whilst supporting the front of the patient's feet,
- b. adjusting at least the heel supports to compensate for any malalignment of

the patient's feet,

c. lifting one foot free of said heel support and applying a settable casting bandage to said foot,

d. replacing said one foot on said heel support and, if necessary, repeating said compensation step (b),

e. maintaining said foot in the compensated configuration until said casting bandage sets, and

f. removing said one foot from said heel support and slipping said one foot from said set cast.

12. **(Original)** A method of casting a mould of a compensated foot whilst a patient's weight is carried by the foot, said method comprising the steps of:

a. standing the patient on a pair of spaced apart heel supports whilst supporting the front of the patient's feet,

b. lifting one foot free of said heel support and applying a settable casting bandage to said foot,

c. replacing said one foot on said heel support,

d. adjusting at least the heel supports to compensate for any malalignment of the patient's feet,

e. maintaining said foot in the compensated configuration until said casting bandage sets, and

f. removing said one foot from said heel support and slipping said one foot from said set cast.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said adjusting step includes the simultaneous pivoting of at least one said heel supports about a heel-toe axis of said foot and movement of said heel support transverse to said heel-toe axis.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said adjusting step includes the additional step of adjusting the patient's forefoot by rotation thereof about said heel-toe axis and simultaneous movement substantially transverse to said heel-toe axis.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The method as claimed in claim 11 including the further step of:

g. placing a deformable liner on each of said heel supports prior to carrying out step (a).

16. **(Previously Presented)** The method as claimed in claim 11 and carried out for both feet of said patient in turn to thereby create two said casts.

17. **(New)** Apparatus to correctly align a foot to permit an orthotic device to be fabricated, said apparatus comprising:

a heel support and a front foot rest positioned substantially level therewith and in front of the heel support to define a heel-toe axis in front of the heel support, said heel support being mounted on a heel adjustment means arranged to simultaneously pivot said heel support about said heel-toe axis and move said heel support in a direction transverse to said heel-toe axis,

wherein said heel adjustment means comprises a vertically extending support having a substantially flat top over which a substantially flat rack extends, a curved rack

formed on said heel support and engaged with said flat rack, and a tilt lever arm extending from said heel support and tiltable to change the point of inter-engagement of said flat and curved racks.

18. **(New)** Apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein a turnbuckle interconnects said tilt lever arm and a base of said vertically extending support.